

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /080 W

-----192030Z 009262 /43

R 191255Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9796

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USUN NEW YORK 409

UNCLAS GABORONE 0892

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, BC, UG

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA PRESS BLASTS AMIN

REF: (A) GABORONE A-11 (NOTAL)

(B) 75 GABORONE 967 (NOTAL)

1. GOVERNMENT -PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF APRIL 18  
FEATURES FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL WHICH URGES AFRICAN LEADERS  
TO "COME OUT OF THEIR COCOONS" AND "CONDEMN" UGANDAN  
PRESIDENT AMIN. TEXT OF EDITORIAL AS FOLLOWS.
2. QTE: SPECIAL BT BRITISH ENVOY , LORD THOMPSON, FORMER  
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY IS CURRENTLY TOURING MEMBER NATIONS  
TO SOUND OUT THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE  
TO BE HELD IN LONDON THIS COMING JUNE.
3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS PROBLEMS  
CREATED BY THE INTENTION OF UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN  
TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE  
BIG DADDY IS A SUBJECT OF OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS. AND  
THIS IS THE POINT THAT MERITS A WORDY INTERVENTION FROM THE  
DEMOCRATIC AFRICAN OPINION, NECESSARILY SO BECAUSE AMIN IS,  
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IN THE NAME OF LOGIC, MORE OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE AFRICAN  
THAN TO ANYBODY ELSE.

4. IT IS FROM THIS PREMISE THAT WE URGE AFRICANLEADERS TO  
COME OUT OF THEIR COCOONS AND EXPRESS THEIR FORTHRIGHT OPINIONS  
ABOUT THE UGANDAN LEADER UNDER WHOSE IRON HAND AND BRUTALITY,  
MANY INNOCENT BLACK UGANDANS AND SOME FOREIGNERS BECAME GORY  
SUPPER FOR THE NILE RIVER CROCODILES AND HIPPOS.

5. THE MOST DISTURBING FEATURE ABOUT AMIN S BARBAROUS VENDETTA IS THAT RACISTS REGARD IDI AS NOT ONLY AN IDIOT BUT ALSO AS A TYPICAL AFRICAN LEADER WHEN THE REST OF THE RIGHT-MINDED WORLD REGARD HIM AS A BAD MAN IN HIS OWN UNIQUE CHARACTER. AS WE WRITE, RACISTS ARE MAKING A LOT OF HALABALOO JUMPING HELTER-SKELTER FROM PILLAR TO POST DISCREDITING AFRICA THROUGH THE PERSON OF AMIN. THIS IS UNFORTUNATE.

6. IT IS TRUE THAT THE HANDS OF SOME LEADERS IN AFRICA AND OTHERS OUTSIDE IT ARE NOT ALL THAT CLEAN BUT IDI AMIN S CASE HAS REACHED A CONFOUNDING APOGEE. ALL OTHER DICTATORS, BRUTES AND SADISTS LIKE HITLER, MUSSOLINI, SALAZAR, SMITH AND OTHERS (GUESS WHO) AT LEAST HAD OR HAVE EVIL, IF NOT UNDERSTANDABLE OBJECTIVES - TO MAKE THEIR COUNTRIES WORLD POWERS AND OF LATE TO PROTECT WHITE SUPREMACY. THEY FAILED AND THEY WILL FAIL.

7. BUT WHAT IS AMIN S OBJECTIVE IN KILLING, MAIMING AND CHASTISING HIS OWN BLACK PEOPLE OTHER THAN BLOOD-THIRST AND PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT? WHAT IS IT? THE WHITE RACIST MINORITY REGIMES DO NOT KILL THEIR OWN BROTHERS. THEY HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE WHOLE WORLD AND AFRICA IS WAGING A LIBERATION WAR AGAINST THEM THAT IS CALLED FOR BECOMING. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO AMIN AND A FEW OTHER BRUTES IN THIS CONTINENT, SOME LEADERS WITHDRAW INTO THEIR SHELLS AND ASSUME A FENCE-SITTING POSTURE, PASSIVENESS, NON-CHALLENGE AND SOMEWHAT INDECISION. THE O.A.U. CHARTER MUST, IF ANYTHING, BE REVISED.

8. THAT IDI AMIN IS AN OUTRIGHT MURDERER IS VERY CORRECT, THAT HE IS MORE OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE AFRICANS THAN ANYBODY ELSE IS VERY TRUE AND THAT HE MUST BE CONDEMNED AND DENIED THE DIGNITY OF ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IS JUST. UNQUOTE.

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9. COMMENT: BOTSWANA BOYCOTTED THE 1975 OAU SUMMIT IN KAMPALA AND HAS REPEATEDLY CRITICISED AMIN S EXCESSES (REFS). THIS IS DUE, INTER ALIA, TO PRESIDENT KHAMA S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW AND TO GOB S DISCOMFORT AT NEIGHBORING MINORITY GOVERNMENT S PENCHANT FOR POINTING TO AMIN AS EXAMPLE OF BLACK RULE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Reference:** 77 GABORONE A-11, 75 GABORONE 967  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, BC, UG, XA, OAU, (AMIN DADA, IDI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009